THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH) (a) According to Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics Ministry of Commerce & Industry, India's edible oil imports rose about 9 percent to 41.72 lakh metric tonnes in the eleven months period ended 30th September 2005 from 38.44 lakh tonnes a year earlier.

(b) India is world's third largest buyer of vegetable oils after China and European Union.

(c) According to available information, imports of refined oil and crude oil have been broadly in the proportion of 1:9 during the period.

(d) and (e) The main reasons for large import of edible oil include favorable international price situation and domestic demand growth. Some of the steps taken to check/reduce oil imports are:-

(i) The import duty structure of edible oils is reviewed from time to time.

(ii) With effect from 15.2.2005, import duty on Crude Palm Oil/Crude Palmolein has been raised from 65% to 80% and import duty on refined Palm Oil/RBD Palmolein has been raised from 75%to 90%.

(iii) Tariff Value is fixed from time to time for Palm Oil and its products and soyabean oil.

(iv) Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses Oil Palm

(v) Better incentives are provided to producers through fixation of Minimum Support Price (MSP) of major oilseeds.

(f) Production of nine oilseeds (hence of edible oils) in India has been targeted at 265.84 lakh tonnes in 2005-06 against last year estimates of 261.03 lakh tonnes.

Relaxing specifications of paddy produce

3392. SHRIMATI SUKHBANS KAUR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made relaxations in regard to specifications of paddy produce and announced new procurement price of paddy this year; if so, the details of the relaxations and procurement price of different varieties of paddy;

(b) the procurement so far made in Punjab and other States; and

(c) the total estimated amount of paddy procured, classification-wise this year, compared to corresponding figures with respect to last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (Dr. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes Sir. The Government have allowed relaxation in the States of Punjab, Haryana,Orissa, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. Details of the relaxations allowed are given the enclosed Statement-I (*See* below). The Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Procurement of common varieties of paddy is Rs, 570 per qtl. and for Grade A varieties of paddy Rs. 600 per qtl. during the Kharif marketing Season (K MS) 2005-06.

(b) The procurement of paddy so far made in Punab and other is given in enclosed Statement-II (*See* Below)

(c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the house.

Statement-I

State-wise relaxations allowed in respect of paddy during Kharif Marketing Season 2005-06.

Sl. No.	State	Commodity	Refractions	Uniform Specifications Maximum limit %	Relaxations granted%
1.	Punjab	Paddy	Damaged, discoloured, sprouted & weevilled grains	3.0	8.0
2.	Haryana	Paddy	Damaged, discoloured, sprouted & weevilled grains.	3.0	8.0
3.	Orissa	Paddy	Damaged, discoloured, sprouted & weevilled grains	3.0	5.0
			Immature, shriveled & shrunken grains	3.0	5.0
4.	Rajasthan	Paddy	Immature, shriveled & shrunken grains	3.0	6.0
5.	Madhya Pradesh	Paddy	Damaged, discoloured, sprouted & weevilled grains	3.0	4.0
			Immature, shriveled & shrunken grains	3.0	5.0

Statement-II

Total quantity of paddy procured state-wise during Kharif Marketing Season 2005-06 (as on 19.12.2005)

(Figures in Lakh MT)

State	Paddy procured
Punjab	116.13
Haryana	23.53
Uttar Pradesh	3.14
Rajasthan	Neg. (35 MT)
Uttaranchal	0.14
Andhra Pradesh	0.25
Madhya Pradesh	0.28
Maharashtra	0.43
Chhattisgarh	10.48
Bihar	0.01
Orissa	0.46
Jharkhand	—
Tamil Nadu	Neg. (6 MT)
West Bengal	—
Nagaland	—
Kerala	0.58
TOTAL:	155.43